

ICN Insider



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ICN Hosts Two-Day Federal Site Visit	1
Changes Regarding House File 45	1
Outreach Efforts: Iowa State Fair and IN TOTO	2
Customers 'Perks' with Billing Processes	2
Increasing Digital Literacy with DigitalLiteracy.gov	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

Be sure to stop by and visit ICN's booth at the 2011 Iowa State Fair on August 11 – 21 in the Varied Industries Building.



ICN Hosts Two-Day Federal Site Visit

In June, ICN hosted a two-day site visit for federal officials affiliated with the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The visit's main focus was reviewing information relating to ICN's federal broadband grant received in July 2010 from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

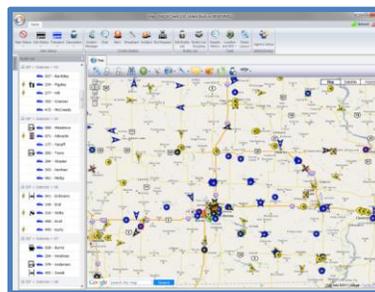
The visit centered on routine discussions relating to topics of transparency, compliance, community outreach, and project status.

The BTOP project, which will require almost 1,000 installations over the course of a two-year period, will impact 450

new sites, over 560 direct locations, and indirectly enhance 3,081 locations. Benefits from ICN's project include providing more robust Internet applications that require large amounts of bandwidth, such as transmitting hospital MRIs, video streaming, and web-based systems.

A tour of ICN's Network Operations Center, located in Johnston, Iowa, was conducted during the visit. In addition, participants received a tour of the Iowa Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Dispatch

Center, and a demonstration of the Iowa Department of Transportation's and DPS' TraCs (Traffic and Criminal Software)/MACH (Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling) web-based applications that utilizes ICN's Network and bandwidth. TraCs creates a PC-based crash reporting system that expedites data capture for police crash reports, while MACH provides for cross-jurisdictional data-sharing within law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and public works communities.



Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling (MACH) web-based application that utilizes ICN's Network and bandwidth.

Changes Regarding House File 45

During the 2011 legislative session, House File 45 was passed requiring the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC); ICN's governing body, to complete a request for proposal (RFP) for the sale or lease of the ICN. During

the remaining days of the 2011 legislative session, House File 646 was passed, which increased the timeline to complete the RFP process by one year, which set a new deadline of June 30, 2013.

Also included in House File 646 is the requirement of the bidding information

received regarding the sale or lease to be reviewed by the legislature and Governor prior to a commencement of a sale or lease agreement for the Network.

The ITTC continues its effort in complying with the legislation passed.

**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

I have recently heard that ICN's fiber is outdated, and society needs to move to a wireless infrastructure. It is important to note, that ICN's state-wide fiber optics continues to be a sustaining asset for Iowans, and is not outdated. There is a place for wireless communications; however a fiber backbone infrastructure is necessary to transport the connections between the wireless structures. With the Network, many partnerships create the combination of the state-own and leased fiber optic infrastructure.

Outreach Efforts: Iowa State Fair and IN TOTO

ICN has two outreach efforts in the next few months that will help Iowans gain awareness relating to topics associated to the ICN.

We are glad to be back at the Iowa State Fair. Be sure to visit our booth in the Varied Industries Building during August 11 – 21.

Our goal is to build awareness for the services that we provide to our authorized users. In addition, we want to inform citizens on how they use services brought to them by the

Network in their everyday lives. We will be linking the booth to our Facebook page, which will be your way to keep in continuous contact.

We will be providing project updates and facts that you may or may not have realized about the ICN.



**NOTHING
COMPARES**

Brought back by popular demand, we are glad to announce that the next ICN IN TOTO conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Did you know that the definition of IN TOTO means "altogether"? Our goal is to bring everyone that is an advocate for the ICN together to discuss legislative topics, project updates, and general awareness initiatives. It is a perfect time to re-connect video schedulers, technical specialists, Educational Telecommunications Council (ETC) members, Regional Telecommunications Council (RTC) participants, and many more.



Early bird registration is now open for ICN's 2011 **IN TOTO** conference.

Customers 'Perks' with Billing Processes

ICN's billing department continues to make improvements throughout the years to help customers easily understand the invoices they receive.

With the change to electronic invoicing, customers receive their billing information directly into their e-mail inbox within the first five business days of each month. This benefit allows for additional time to review statements for accuracy, and provides adequate time for customers to receive approval from boards and/or committees.

Electronic invoicing also helps ICN contribute to its green initiative by reducing the amount of paper previously used for mailing invoices.

Changing account information is no hassle with ICN's Account Utility web page. Users can view all services on one convenient invoice, analysis inventory, review historic statements, and make changes to their circuit, and telephone inventory assignments.

One benefit that may not be widely known is the availability of specialized reporting. ICN's billing department wants to make

invoices easier to read, so if customers have special view requests or layout preferences, ICN's billing staff will try to accommodate those needs. For example, one recent request was related to oriented connections, which numerically lists the data information for easier identification of location. We are trying to adopt this same reporting option for phone customers who have ACD (Automated Call Distributor) and hunt group services.

For additional information about billing topics contact Kammy McHone in ICN's billing department at Kammy.McHone@iowa.gov.

Increasing Digital Literacy with DigitalLiteracy.gov

This summer, the Department of Commerce launched DigitalLiteracy.gov, a website designed to increase digital literacy and lifelong learning skills that help Americans navigate this new Internet-based economy. DigitalLiteracy.gov was created in partnership with nine federal agencies to provide librarians, teachers, workforce trainers and other practitioners a central location to share digital literacy content and practices.

DigitalLiteracy.gov features resources and tools used to teach and develop digital literacy skills including lesson plans, video games, online training tools, and train-the-trainer materials. The site's workforce development page connects users to a wide variety of career building applications that teach the digital skills needed for today's global workforce including word processing fundamentals, resume building tips, and job search techniques. User friendly search options and tags allow visitors to

find resources by competence, subject area, provider, skills level, or keyword. Discussion threads let visitors connect and share ideas on a variety of topics and to develop feedback and best practices.

DigitalLiteracy.gov is constantly evolving to include new resources, functionality, and features. Individuals are encouraged to participate in the discussion groups on digital literacy topics, a feature that can help form communities of practice and export the lessons learned to make the overall "digital literacy" community more effective.



The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.

Employee Spotlight: Gary Williams

Gary Williams is a Telecommunications Technology Enterprise Expert within the Network Operations and Engineering Department of ICN. His primary responsibility is to ensure that the Network continues to run correctly which involves keeping the network equipment operating systems updated and programming/installing new equipment and circuits. Gary enjoys fixing network issues.

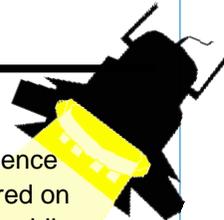
During Gary's career, he has worked for the General Services

Department for the State of Iowa, Koch Brothers, United Electronics Institute, Ankeny Electric, and Williams Electric before moving to the ICN at its inception.

Gary and his wife Bonnie have one daughter, one grandson, and one great niece. His favorite food is filet mignon. With his leisure time Gary assists his mentally ill niece that has a schizoaffective disorder. Gary consoles, manages, and administers her medications daily, as well taking her to her psychologist, doctors, and judicial commitments. A

vivid life experience for Gary occurred on his motorcycle, while riding at 80 mph. He let go of the handle bars and stood straight up on his seat without crashing.

When asked "If you could meet one person who would it be?" Gary stated he would like to get to know his dad's father, who died when he was young. Gary wishes he would have been lucky enough to know him. He hopes his own grandchildren will have the opportunity to remember and have a relationship with their grandfather.



Do you have new staff, administrators, or friends who might be interested in receiving this newsletter? Please pass it on and have them contact lori.larsen@iowa.gov to be placed on the distribution list.

Remember to visit ICN's website at www.icn.state.ia.us to keep updated on all ICN related news.



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Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

Martha Speaks, Star of the Week

Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM; 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM
Audience: **Grades K-2**



Martha Speaks is an animated series on PBS KIDS. Aimed at viewers between the ages of four and seven, Martha's educational goal is to teach kids new words. The series stars Martha, a beloved family dog. She is accidentally fed alphabet soup — this gives her the power of speech and the chance to speak her mind to anyone that will listen. This is a series of sessions for K-2 based on the Reading Buddies Program for Martha Speaks. If you have a buddies system in your school we invite you to bring them to the session together. The content will be aimed for children in grades K-2.

Registration Deadline - Friday, September 16, 2011

Career Day: Working in the Culinary Arts

September 26, 2011, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM; 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM Audience: **Grades 8-12**



Do you have students who have a passion for food and think they'd like to work in the food industry? This is a great opportunity for your students to hear about a WORLD CLASS Culinary Institute in Iowa.

The Executive Chef and program manager for Des Moines Area Community College's Iowa Culinary Institute will be on board to tell your students all about the Culinary Arts program at Des Moines Area Community College.

Registration Deadline - Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Teaching with Energy in Grades 6-12

Tuesday, September 27, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Audience: **Educators**



Energize your math, science, reading, writing and geography classes by developing lesson plans related to energy efficiency and renewable energies including wind, solar, and bio-fuels. Work together to write lessons that meet Iowa Core requirements for both content and methodology using materials available from the FREE (Fabulous Resources for Energy Education) Loan Program, including free model solar car and wind turbine kits for each participant. Course content will include activities on sitting wind and solar projects, home and school energy audits, presentations by experts in renewable energies, and review of the books "The Carbon Diaries 2015" and "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind."

Registration Deadline - Tuesday, September 20, 2011

For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

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